Amendments To The Specification:

Please delete the Abstract of the Disclosure in its entirety and substitute the following replacement Abstract therefor:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A technique for distributed printing that ensures favorable operability within a sufficiently short time. The procedure first generates intermediate print data and executes the parallel rendering process by time sharing to sequentially convert page data on the first page of the intermediate print data into data adequate for the printers. Transmission of final print data converted for the first printer is carried out in parallel with the rendering process for the second printer. In a similar manner, transmission of converted final print data to the second printer and third printers is carried out in parallel with the rendering process for the next printer. The parallel rendering process sequentially converts page data on the second page of the intermediate print data into data adequate for the printers. Subsequently, the parallel rendering process sequentially converts page data on the third page of the intermediate print data into data adequate for the printers.

Please replace the paragraph that begins at page 28, line 17 (the paragraph that spans pages 28 and 29), with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the virtual printer driver 110, the properties setting module 113 activates a user interface 116 to set and store various pieces of information required for printing. Some of he the various pieces of information required for printing are returned, together with the performance information, to the application program 100 via the performance information return module 112. The various pieces of information required for printing include, for example, information with regard to the basic settings of printing like the printing quality, the color correction, and the type of halftoning, information with regard to the settings of paper like the paper size and the printing orientation, information with regard to the printer group specifying available printers as destinations of distribution, and information with regard to the distributed form in the distributed printing process. Among these pieces of information, the information excluding those with regard to the printer group and the distributed form is sent to the application program 100.